

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 4 - Number 4

JANUARY, 1956



A group of Ministers present for the Convocation and Training School at Southern Union College.

NEW HEAD OF EVANGELISM

On January first Dr. Robert W. Spike became the new Director of the Department of Evangelism of the Board of Home Missions of our denomination. He took up the work laid down by Dr. Wofford C. Timmons who retired as director of this department in 1953.

Dr. Spike has been the pastor of the Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village, New York City, where a unique program of church leadership in community affairs, particularly as concerns delinquent and unchurched youth, has been in operation. At 32, Dr. Spike is one of the youngest men in any Protestant denomination to head a department of evangelism. He has been an ordained minister for ten years.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Spike has degrees from Denison University, Colgate Rochester Divinity School and Columbia University. He holds office in several health and social welfare councils in New York City and is the Protestant chaplain at Youth House, the city's detention home for adolescents.

AMERICAN BOARD APPOINTMENT

The appointment of Carl H. Holdridge of Ledyard, Conn. as Associate Treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston, Mass. was announced December 14 by Dr. Alford Carleton, Executive Vice President of the American Board.

Mr. Holdridge has been an officer of the Chelsea Savings Bank of Norwich, Conn. since 1948, a corporator since 1949 and a director since 1953. He is now Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. His resignation from the Norwich bank took place December 31 and he began his new duties in Boston early in January.

In his new international post as Associate Treasurer of the American Board, which has an annual budget of \$1,900,000, Mr. Holdridge will be responsible for the transfer of funds and for financial dealings with American Board mission treasurers in fourteen countries involving familiarity with the many currencies used in these lands.

275TH ANNIVERSARY

The Circular Congregational Christian Church of Charleston, S. C. began the celebration of their 275th Anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 8, 1956, with Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, Minister and Secretary of the General Council, as the guest speaker at the morning worship.

General Mark W. Clark of The Citadel and Bishop Thomas A. Caruthers were the speakers for "Community Night" that evening. Greetings were also brought by the mayor, William M. Morrison, and the pastors of the three oldest churches in Charleston.

Circular Church is the oldest Congregational church outside of New England and the oldest non-Conformist church south of Virginia. It has been located at 136-150 Meeting Street since 1681.

The Southeast Convention annual meeting will be held in this church April 23-25, 1956, when Dr.

MID-WINTER MEETING

The Missions Council Mid-winter Meeting will be held at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., from January 30 to February 2. Representatives of our Boards, State Conferences, Women's Fellowship and combined staffs will be in almost continuous meeting, beginning Monday evening at 8 o'clock with sessions scheduled to begin at 9 the next morning and continuing through day and evening sessions, some of which are scheduled for as late as 9:30 p.m. This is a "workshop" in which 367 men and women participated last year.

Beside the usual Boards' presentations at the coming meeting there will be a vital and essential panel discussion dealing with motivation in missions and life enlistment. The theme chosen is "Workmen Unashamed".

Dr. Walter Van Kirk will be the speaker at Wednesday night's Fellowship Dinner.

Attending from the Southeast Convention will be Supt. Erston M. Butterfield, Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Mrs. Wm. F. Gordon, and Mrs. A. D. Harry (or her alternate Mrs. Raymond Berry).

CHATTANOOGA PILGRIM CHURCH PURCHASES BUILDING SITE

The Congregation of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, Tenn. voted on Dec. 4 to purchase property at the foot of Missionary Ridge with the intention of building and relocating.

For several years the church has been overcrowded, and there has been discussion by church boards as to the advisability of trying to expand on the present site, or to relocate. Surveys and estimates were made on the costs of adding to the present building with discouraging results.

The new site is approximately two and a half miles from the present church, and 165 x 365 feet, allowing more room for parking and for any future expansion. Direct lines of communication make the proposed site easily accessible from all parts of the city while its proximity to the growing fringe of the metropolitan areas under development give it a most strategic position and an unique opportunity seldom presented to a Congregational Christian congregation, especially here in the south.

GENERAL COUNCIL CALL

An official call of the 1956 meeting of the General Council has been issued by Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, acting secretary.

The regular biennial meeting will be held in the Civic Auditorium of Omaha, Nebraska, beginning Wed., June 20, at 2 p.m. and continuing through Wed., June 27, 1956.

Most associations and conferences of the Southeast Convention have elected delegates to attend this meeting. Specific information concerning registration, hotel reservations, etc., will be mailed out to delegates soon.

Albert Buckner Coe, Moderator of the General Council, will be guest speaker.

A MOST VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

"Brother, you really missed something!" That's the way the ministers who attended the Convocation and Training School last month are greeting their less fortunate brethren who, for one reason or another, had to miss out on a truly great experience.

Under the direction of the Convention Committee on Ministry and Churches (Dr. Guy Colbert, chm.) outstanding leaders are selected to provide a well-rounded program of formal class-work, directed study, good fellowship, informative lectures, and inspiring moments of worship. President Clyde Flannery of Southern Union College acts both as a congenial host and Dean of the school.

Dr. Kendrick Grobel, Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt School of Religion, presented four lectures on "The Christian's Freedom". He also led the class for advanced students on "We Would See Jesus". The Convocation preacher was Dr. Thomas Anderson of Atlanta Central Church, and he presented inspirational messages dealing with four of the major fields of the Christian Ministry. The Rev. Carolyn Welch acted as the discussion leader for the advanced group following the Associates in Reading book studies. The two classes available for credit were: "Christian Doctrine" taught by President Flannery, and "Christian Evangelism" taught by Dr. Simon Bennett, former Superintendent of the Indiana Conference of Congregational Christian Churches.

Four evening workshops were under the direction of the Convention Committee on Promotional Media, with the Rev. Thomas Shreves as chairman. Introducing the contents of the new Promotional Media Kit soon to be released, Mr. Shreves, Professor Robert Yoh and the Rev. Douglas Wassen led in the four discussion periods.

At the final Service of Recognition and Fellowship the following received certificates for successfully completing all requirements for the previous semester's courses: Church History, Dr. Guy Colbert teacher, and The Minister and Christian Education, Supt. Butterfield, teacher. Rev. Earl Hand, Yancey Sears, Rev. B. J. Traylor and Mrs. Gladys Watson. Others completing final requirements will be awarded certificates later in the year.

The Ministers' Convocation and Training School held twice yearly is without a doubt a most valuable experience. Many churches are not only granting ministers time off to attend, but are help-



Convocation leaders: Dr. Thos. Anderson, Dr. Simon Bennett, Rev. Corolyn Welch, President Clyde Flannery, and Dr. Kendrick Grobel.



Leaders for Workshop on Promotional Media: Professor Robert Yoh, Rev. Thomas Shreve, and Rev. Douglas Wassen.

ing pay expenses. All churches are urged to adopt such a policy. If you are one of those unfortunate ministers who missed the last Convocation, or if you are a member of a church whose minister could not attend, plan now for the next Ministers' Convocation and Training School to be held at Southern Union College May 7-11. It, too, will be a most valuable experience.

(Photographs on this page and the cover page taken by Dr. Wm. A. Broyles, college photographer).

SOUTHERN UNION NEWS

Seventeen students at Southern Union College are on the "Dean's List" for outstanding scholastic achievement, according to Dean A. R. Van Cleave. The requirement is that students must receive a minimum of one "A" and two "B" for the quarter's work--usually fifteen quarter hours.

Top honors for "straight A" work went to Miss Jackie Bass of Chipley, Miss Sara Coggins of Camp Hill, Glenn Kenady of Wadley, Miss Betty Lay of Flat Creek, and Miss Merl Luker of Delta.

Others on the list are Robert Bain of Pisgah, Doyle Greene of Gallant, John Hodges of Roanoke, Miss Jerry Paul of Bonifay, Fla., Dennis Waldrop and Rupert Wesson of Alexander City, Wally Dunnivant of Decatur, Maynard Foster of Buffalo, Wayne Green of Gallant, Donald Ross of Wadley, and Sherron Vansant of Hanceville.

U Are Needed

We cannot spell Sunday without U,
We cannot spell Church without U,
We cannot spell Success without U,

Your Church needs U to help
The Southeast Convention needs U
We are Counting on U!

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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NEWS FROM THE DOLLARS

The Rev. and Mrs. Carl Dollar moved to Bertha, Minn. in December, and we know all their many friends in the Southeast Convention will be happy to have a report on them. (Excerpts from recent letters).

"Well, here we are in the land of snow and ice, among God's frozen people--who are really very warm-hearted and generous. We arrived on Dec. 8, and I held services in both the Bertha and Oak Grove churches the following Sunday. It was cold, but there were good congregations at both places.

"We found lots of snow when we arrived and it snowed again last night. So I had two hours of exercise this morning shoveling snow. My driveway is much too long! John and Penny have already bought skates and are learning fast. The fire department floods a vacant lot and lets it freeze for skating, and it makes a good rink. Florence and I have no intention of trying it. We have bought some heavier clothing and need more. The temperature is supposed to be 10° below in the mornings, but it doesn't really feel any colder than 25 or 30 above down there. Florence wonders what this country looks like without a cover of snow, and I tell her she can see about that come May. I have bought different tires for the rear (of my car) and a heater for the engine.

"The people here were good to us during Christmas, and especially the good old rural people at Oak Grove. We had a Christmas program and tree on Friday night and they heaped us with frozen meats and breads for our freezer. Also there were eggs and six pounds of butter. The women had made us a nice comforter, lined with fresh wool from one of the farms.

"The Bertha people brought in gifts all along during Saturday--fruits and candies and groceries. One member brought me a fur cap and some wool-lined leather mittens. These were very welcome. Ears can freeze before you know it. We look like Eskimos now, wrapped from head to foot.

"We had Christmas Eve services Saturday,

NEW FILMSTRIPS

The Convention office has four new filmstrips in color which may be borrowed by churches or women's, men's or PF groups for programs on Missionary Education.

Peter Flying Eagle, a filmstrip for children about an Indian American boy. A reading script accompanies the filmstrip.

Strangers in Their Own Land, a filmstrip for young people and adults, concerns an Indian American family that left the reservation to settle at Rapid City, South Dakota, where our denomination has a center to help them. Reading Script.

Good Voice and Grandmother River, a filmstrip for young people and adults, concerns the moving of Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in the Dakotas from the rich lands by the river to the brown earth of grazing land. "Ho Washte", or Good Voice, was the name the Indians gave the first missionary, Dr. Hall, a Congregational Christian missionary who came and brought them their first church and school. Two 78 RPM Records tell the story. Also reading script.

A Time to Build Up is the sequel to "Good Voice", and tells about the Rev. and Mrs. Case and Alice Watson, present missionaries, and their work today. 33 1/3 speed record; no script.

There are also eight Story Records of 78 RPM speed on the "All Aboard for Adventure" series. These are useful in Sunday School classes or worship or Vacation Bible School. They are most suitable for Junior or Junior High age. List sent on request.

closing at midnight, and then had another at 8:45 Sunday morning. Then we went to Oak Grove for a 10:15 service and Sunday School. Everyone seemed to enjoy the services, even me, though it was rushing a bit.

"We trust things are moving along nicely in your area and work. I did not relish the idea of leaving, but after we have had a stretch of experience in the North I'm sure we'll be anxious to come back home. Maybe something will be available by then."

C. Carl Dollar

I'll Go, But . . .

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord
And service is what I desire;
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord
But don't ask me to sing in the choir.

I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord
I like to see things come to pass;

But don't ask me to teach boys and girls, dear
Lord
I'd rather just stay in my class.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord
I yearn for the Kingdom to thrive;
I'll give you my nickels and dimes, dear Lord
But please don't ask me to tithe.

I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord
I'll say what you want me to say;
I'm busy just now with myself, dear Lord
I'll help you some other day.

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

New Year

Upon the threshold of another year
We stand again.
We know not what of gladness and good cheer,
Of grief or pain
May visit us while journeying to its close.
In this we rest,
God dealeth out in wisdom what he knows
For us is best.

—Thomas Wearing

"Our Loyalty Belongs to the Future"

Before saying anything about the future, I want to express to you--ministers and members of the churches of the Southeast Convention--my sincere appreciation for your fine cooperation and excellent support during the year that is past.

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive your generous gift at Christmas time! A check for \$240 arrived by special delivery on Christmas Eve with greetings from churches of the Convention! Isabel and I are most grateful for your thoughtfulness--our thanks to all.

And now that we are well into 1956, let me share with you some thoughts about "loyalty" and "the future". It seems that everywhere we go these days we are forever hearing talk about being loyal to the past. We must be true to our heritage, we must keep faith with our forefathers, we must remain loyal to the traditions of our ancestors. . . .(It seems talk like that was recorded way back in Biblical times--it even appeared to have caused a lot of trouble for Jesus and the disciples!)

Really, there is much that should be said about being loyal to the future. (Of course I am with you in insisting that our supreme loyalty must be to Christ and His Way. All other loyalties must be subordinated in times of crisis and decision, so what we're talking about is proper placement of a minor loyalty.)

Our ancestors are not really as important as our posterity. As someone once said: "The saints to whom the faith was delivered are not all behind us; some are yet to be born."

We do not do honor to our ancestors by wrapping life or any pattern or organization of life, in a handkerchief and passing it on exactly as we had it handed to us by our forefathers. They pioneered and struggled in their day to add some

good to life and they expect us, too, to pioneer and struggle, building upon the best of the past to achieve an ever greater future. We must enrich, enlarge, beautify, develop and improve life by our living.

There is a danger of being so loyal to the past that we leave out of account our responsibilities of the present and the need to be loyal to the future.

We must always remember that the future is greater than the past. There is more to be done than has been done. It is a part of the weakness of all of us that we have too small ideas of the plans of God for the future. We take doubtful views of what is yet to be and we cannot realize that the past is the smallest part of history. God's day is just getting started, and we have no right to treat the past as though it were the greatest of God's period of time.

Again, it must be remembered that the past is past--what is done is done; past history can never be changed for it is beyond our control, but the future is yet to be and what happens is our responsibility. Great decisions are trembling in the balance. Future history is ours for the living. We will advance or greatly handicap future generations by what we do this next moment, these next days in the new year.

So, Loyalty to the future is the great demand! In this new year which God has given unto us, let us be ever conscious of our responsibility to the future and let us judge our actions, our plans, our customs, our organizations, our churches--not by "Do they honor the past?" but "do they make for a brighter, happier, more Christian future?"

May God bless us all as we live each day in His presence.

—Erston M. Butterfield

Women's Fellowship —

MEMO TO WOMEN

Madam Presidents:

Good reports of our Women's Work have come to me from various sections of the Southeast Convention. Perhaps a few suggestions gleaned from the Ohio fellowship of Congregational Christian Women may serve to further strengthen your work.

For inspiration, hold constantly before you women this Purpose of our Fellowship: "To cultivate the spirit of Christ, beginning with our own lives and reaching into home and community and the uttermost parts of the earth."

For your programs, use material found in "Out of the Heart of the Gospel" and at least two of this year's mission study books.

For your increase in membership, talk to and draw out the interests of newcomers and women who do not attend meetings. You may garner new ideas, too!

For improving your meetings, appoint a member to fill in the following report for each meeting: (They should keep a definite record of time at each meeting. Don't fudge!)

How many minutes late in beginning were we? _____

How long was the business session? _____

How much time was spent on devotional program? _____

How much time on the program? _____

How much time eating and visiting? _____
(Gobble, Gab and Git)

Another question card to help you evaluate the meetings could be filled in by each one present and studied by your executive board.

This was a poor ____; good ____; very good ____; excellent ____ meeting.

Comments _____.

I learned nothing new ____; a little ____; a great deal ____.

Comments _____.

I am inspired to go out and do something in my own kitchen or community. No ____; Maybe ____; Yes ____.

Comments _____.

(These cards need not be signed.)

One more word--in asking women to do specific jobs, do so well in advance and use new leadership frequently.

May God bless you in your work and fellowship,

Isabel W. Porter, representative
SEC Women's Fellowship

GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA

The Board of Directors of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference met Dec. 29 in Atlanta, Ga. Those present were the Moderator, the Rev. M. B. Porter Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Gordon, the Rev. Henry Abbott, the Rev. Henry Weaver, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter and Dr. Thomas Anderson. Ex officio members were Supt. E. M. Butterfield and the Rev. Annie R. Campbell.

The treasurer, Rev. Carpenter, reported with pride that he had collected one hundred percent of the amount needed for per capita dues for Georgia. This was not because every church paid in full, or all churches paid, but because some paid more than was actually due.

The Rev. Abbott tendered his resignation as Dean of the Georgia Summer Conference because he will be attending summer school and will not have time to work on planning the conference. The Rev. W. C. Carpenter was appointed as dean with Mr. Wm. Frank Gordon serving as assistant dean and business manager.

Mr. Carpenter decided to reconsider his resignation as treasurer and to serve out the remainder of his term.

Rev. and Mrs. Porter provided a luncheon for the directors at their home on Collier Road.

It was voted to accept the invitation of Ambrose Church for the next annual meeting, and the dates Oct. 3 and 4 were tentatively set as the time of the conference.



The women of County Line Church of Hompton, Ga., recently organized into a women's fellowship. Officers were elected as follows (left to right): Mrs. W. R. Pritchett, vice-president; Mrs. H. A. Exum, Friendly Service; Mrs. W. H. Choffin, president; Mrs. E. M. Wise, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. M. E. Choffin, Spiritual Life.

*Today Is All
Anyone Has*

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

PLANNING MEETING

A meeting of the Southeast Convention PF officers was held at Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. on December 18-19. Various topics such as the March Convention-wide PF Conference, work camps, and the formation of new districts--especially in Georgia--were discussed. A motion was passed to order 100 booklets on Parliamentary Procedure for use throughout the Convention. A temporary agenda for the March meeting was drawn up by the officers and the ball is really rolling.

The theme of the March meeting, the second annual Conference for PFers, is "Let your light so shine". A glorious two days of worship, recreation, fellowship and good are in store for all PFers, so make your plans NOW to attend the annual Southeast Convention PF Conference on March 17 and 18.

And now, a reminder to all local PF treasurers—start collecting the 25c per member Convention PF dues immediately and send them to Iris Cole, PF treasurer, as soon as possible!

Officers for the Langdale PF, recently elected are: Billy Sides, president; Patsy Yancey, vice-president; Peggy Oneal, secretary; Douglas Miles, treasurer; committee chairmen--Fellowship, Clarine Holmes; Action, Gladys Hearn; Faith, Randall Sims.

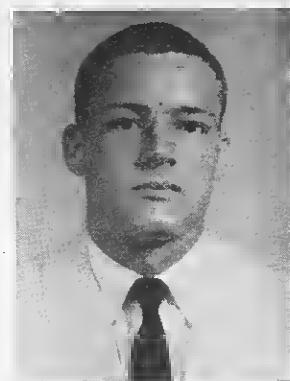
On Oct. 22 the group observed Work Day for Christ, beginning with a devotional led by Gladys Hearn at the home of Claudette and Emory Sledge. They divided into groups and went out to do any job the people of Langdale had called on them to do. A total of \$45.25 was earned that day for Our Christian World Mission.

A social event which was especially enjoyed by the PF was a hayride. The young people assembled at the home of Mrs. Vena Mae Robertson on Saturday evening, piled hay on two pickup trucks, rode to T. M. Smith's lake, roasted wieners and had a wonderful time around the fire. Miss Ellen Hull, adult sponsor, Miss Shirley Walker and Mrs. Robertson accompanied the group.

Mrs. Willie Sides

Atlanta Central has three youth groups--the Fortnightly Club, the Senior PF and the Junior PF, making the church a busy place on Sunday nights.

The Junior PF was organized Oct. 30 with 21 charter members and meets each Sunday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 o'clock, with supper and programs of visual education, speakers and discussion panels at the church on first Sundays, open house meetings at homes of members on second Sundays, supper at the church and tours on third Sundays, and similar programs to first Sundays on



V. R. DOBSON

VALLEY DISTRICT PRESIDENT

The newly elected president of PF for the Valley District is V. R. Dobson, a 17-year-old senior at Lanett High School, Lanett, Ala. V. R. is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vester R. Dobson of Lanett and he is active in school and church activities, being captain of the football team, president of the "L" Club, president of the "Key Club", president of the Glee Club, member of the Teen-age Club, and vice-president of the Senior class.

V. R. helps conduct the PF at Lanett Church, of which he is a member. This thoroughly capable young man is doing an excellent job as Valley District PF president and is indeed an inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to work with him.

the fourth Sunday. Games and other forms of recreation precede supper at each meeting.

The Senior High PF consists of young people from 13 through senior high and features a similar program.

The Fortnightly Club is the older young people in college and business.



Christian Education Committee meeting November 17 at Southern Union College: Rev. Henry Weaver, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Millard Fuller, Mrs. M. B. Porter, Rev. Carl Landes, Mrs. Raymond Berry, Rev. Raymond Berry, and Rev. Annie Campbell (photographer).

Church News . . .

Members of the Hunt Church of Alexander City gave the pastor, the Rev. Lynwood Hubbard, a surprise birthday supper on Nov. 28 on the occasion of his 29th birthday. The supper was held at the fellowship hall with everyone bringing a covered dish. The W.M.S. baked a beautiful cake, and the pastor was given a gift from church members and friends.

The Pilgrim Fellowship presented a very moving play, "This Is My Father's World", for our Thanksgiving evening services. Mrs. Lynwood Hubbard was the director, and can be complimented on her splendid work with the young people.

Community-wide Thanksgiving services were held in Alexander City with churches of all denominations joining together to give thanks to God. Hunt church had charge of securing a guest speaker, and Rev. Hubbard secured as representative of the Congregation Christian denomination Dr. A. R. Van Cleave of Southern Union College.

A Christmas tree and presents entertained the young people on Dec. 23, with each S.S. class having a part on the program. Afterwards baskets of fruit were distributed to needy friends in the community.

—Mrs. John Caldwell, reporter

* * *

During the months of October and November the Langdale Church set aside two evenings for the showing of "Assignment Jerusalem and Heathers Rage". At the conclusion of the opening worship on those Sunday evenings, the congregation went on a flying trip to The Holy Land and visited many African tribes engaging in practices that are utterly unbelievable in the eyes of a Christian.

On Nov. 14 a large group of ladies dressed as Indians and Pilgrims assembled for their monthly fellowship meeting. The program was presented by Cumi Gray Circle and was "In a Revolutionary World". Mrs. Sara Norred made group pictures of the occasion. Mrs. Raymond Hull, chairman of the carpet fund, reported that the total was nearing the \$400 mark. It seems that everyone is helping and eagerly watching the fund grow. Dr. Pardy, the pastor, made his contribution by giving a lecture on his experiences in Labrador. The offering at this lecture was donated to the carpet fund.

On Nov. 23 Dr. Pardy exchanged places with the Rev. W. C. Nolen, pastor of the Methodist Church. This was a wonderful experience for both prayer meeting groups, as well as for the pastors.

Officers and teachers of the Sunday School were inspired as they looked and listened to the filmstrip "We Grew Together", presented by Miss Ellen Hull and Mrs. Willie Sides at the Monday evening meeting on Nov. 21. The filmstrip illustrated the Christian family growing together.

On Nov. 27 eleven officers and teachers attended the Valley Sunday School Rally at Lanett. This was a new experience for many, and a very helpful one. A committee was appointed to make plans for a spring rally.

—Mrs. Willie Sides, reporter

On Dec. 4 the three church boards, Trustee, Finance and Deacons, met at Lanett Church and elected the following persons to work out our Every Member Canvass program to be held Jan. 23-29 under the direction of Dr. Warren H. Denison.

Program and Budget Committee: G. Pate Dunn, C. L. Stephens, I. D. Hill, Frank Moon, Lillian Hatcher, Willie O. McGill, S. W. Seymour, A. D. Harry, Howard Looser, and Charlie Miller.

Canvass Committee: S. W. Seymour, Wm. A. Hodnett, Tom Crenshaw, Render Fuller, Fred Lashley, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Martha Fetner, Mrs. Gloria Robbins and O. D. Sorrell.

Stewardship and Missionary Education: Mrs. Lillian Hatcher, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Dorothy Moon, and Marvin Hodge.

One of our members, Mrs. A. D. Harry, had the honor and privilege of representing the Southeast Convention at a national committee meeting held in New York City on Dec. 8-9. This meeting was called by the Council of Social Action for the study of race relations in our churches.

The Missionary Auxiliary has finished paying for the Baldwin organ and their new project is the purchase of another stove for the church kitchen.

The Men's Club, under the leadership of Willie McGill, has a light green carpet on the floor of the sanctuary now. They have also bought two more tables for the dining room, making a total of four.

Plans have been drawn by a landscape engineer for beautifying our church grounds. Nurserymen will begin work by planting trees, shrubs and other plants.

On Dec. 16, the Lydia Circle, Mrs. M. L. Redden leader, had a Christmas party at the Community Club House. Invited guests were husbands and the Rev. and Mrs. Joe French. Everyone had a gay and joyous time. On this same night the Preschool children with their teachers had a party at the church. We were visited by Saint Nick himself and every child was elated. Cakes had "Happy Birthday Dear Jesus" and every child understood that this was Jesus' birthday party.

The Choir gave a very inspiring rendition of "The Christmas Story" on the evening of Dec. 18. The Men's Choir was directed by Willie McGill, the Youth Choir by Terrell Dobson, the Children's Choir by Mrs. Render Fuller and the Chancel Choir by Mrs. Posey Sorrell. Special selections were beautifully and effectively done by our own Gloria Robbins, Shirlene Knowles and Cooper Cannon.

The Fellowship S.S. Class of young married couples, led by Mrs. Gladys Carlisle, carried the spirit of Christmas to a needy family by giving toys for the four children.

Cub Scout Pack I, with Cub Master Tom Crenshaw and Den Mother Mrs. Charlie Miller, had their Christmas party and brought gifts for a family.

Herman Cook, member of the Executive Committee of the National Laymen's Fellowship and recording secretary for the Fellowship, attended the national meeting in Chicago. Reports were given on work during the past year and plans for the future.

—Mrs. Cooper Cannon, reporter

On Sunday, Nov. 13 the Shawmut Todd Church welcomed the Rev. and Mrs. Donald J. Ross and their two sons as the new minister and family. On Dec. 10 the Rosses moved into the parsonage.

The various Sunday School classes held their Christmas parties the week before Christmas, as did the Women's Missionary Society which had all the husbands as guests. A very impressive candle-light Communion Service was held on Christmas Eve, with a 20 minute period of silent meditation, during which tape recorded organ music was played, just before the service began.

On Christmas morning the children were delighted with a most unusual presentation of the Christmas Story during the Sunday School hour. The entire story was told with puppets that Mrs. Ross had made with a tape recorded background of words and music.

On Jan. 1 the Sunday School began with a new department, the Children's Dept., under the temporary direction of Mrs. Ross. The Beginners, Primary and Juniors have their own separate worship service with Rev. Ross presenting a chalk talk, while the adults and young people hold their worship service in the Sanctuary.

All of us at Todd are looking forward to a year of growth, revamping of our whole program under the inspiring leadership of the Rev. and Mrs. Ross.

—Mrs. C. F. Gray, church clerk

* * *

The Good Hope Church of Baker, Fla. recently sponsored a box supper to raise money for additional pews, raising \$111.

Since the Christmas season was so busy and the young people were working on their Christmas program, it was decided to wait until January to purchase materials and begin work on the pews.

Fort Valley Society Hill Church, under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. Woodrow Dorsey, has installed new pews.

A Thanksgiving service was held on Nov. 23, with 124 present. Ten different groups participated in the singing.

On Nov. 30 the Rev. W. C. Carpenter and the Rev. Jas. T. McAdams were with us for prayer meeting, and we enjoyed having them very much.

We are very proud of our pianist, little Miss



Pictured above is the congregation of Ft. Valley Society Hill Church at the Thanksgiving Service held November 23.

Bernice Youngher, aged ten. Despite her youth, Bernice is a wonderful pianist.

Attendance at our regular service and prayer meetings continues to grow.

(Southeast News apologizes for stating some months ago that the Rev. Paul Pike had been called to serve Society Hill. Mr. Pike is serving Ft. Valley First and the Rev. Dorsey continues to serve ably at Society Hill.)

—Mrs. T. B. Jackson, reporter

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The Christmas program of Daisy Church was held on Dec. 18, highlighted with a pantomime, "The Bells' Christmas Song". All children of the Sunday School and Junior Church were included in the program, with Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Mrs. Ellis Ferry, Mrs. Paul Lewis, Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, Mrs. R. C. Webb and Mrs. R. K. Griswold as directors. Mrs. Henry Lewis was organist.

Rev. Lowell Smoot attended the Convocation and Training School for ministers at Southern Union and reported a very good session.

Mrs. Paul Lewis entertained the pre-teens at her home on Dec. 19 with a Christmas party. This group included Carolyn Griswold, Sandra Blackburn, Donna Lewis, Sandra Pendergrass, Harold Roberson, Johnny Ables and Larry Clift.

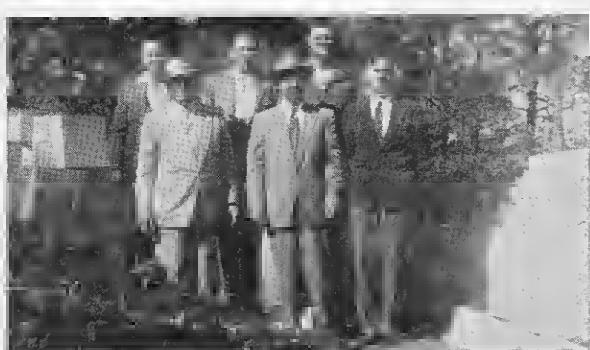
All children of the Sunday School were entertained with a Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 21 with Old Santa distributing the gifts.

The Ladies' Guild party was held at the home of Mrs. Ellis Ferry with Mrs. Ed West co-hostess. The Christmas Story was given for the devotional.

A combined meeting of the women of Soddy and Daisy churches was held at the Soddy Church on Dec. 7. Mr. Walter Wood gave the devotional. Mrs. Sherwood Landrum of Chattanooga was the guest speaker, and told of Christmas customs in France. Miss Martha Wood sang a solo, accompanied by Miss Elizabeth Jenkins, organist. A social hour was enjoyed, with Mrs. Rachel Card and Mrs. Clarence Smith in charge.

The Loyal Alert Class met recently with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ferry. The group voted to buy an Altar for the Junior Church. Rev. Smoot was named chairman of this project. The nominating committee presented officers for the new year, elected as follows: Alton Frazier, president; Eugene Burnette, vice-president; Mrs. Eugene Ricketts, secretary-treasurer.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter



Some members of the Building Committee of Sordis Church, Oxford, Ga. Recently a Fellowship Hall, for Sunday School and recreation too, was built. (Left to right) Tom Williams, Thomas Henderson, Jock Hinton, Albert Strickland, Edgar Fisher and Roy Martin.

INDIAN CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

This is a story of the union of two weak churches to form one strong church: Brantley, Indian Creek was founded in 1919; Rutledge, Community began in 1913. The story begins in September of 1950 with each church struggling for existence only a few miles apart. People had moved away from both communities and each church had such few members left that it was difficult to support even a part-time pastor. The few members left were devoted, each to his own church.

At the September 17 meeting in 1950, a parish committee was elected at Indian Creek Church, with the pastor, the Rev. M. O. Worley, as Moderator. Mr. Worley reminded the congregation that he was resigning and that a search for a new pastor should begin. On the night of December 30 the three churches comprising the parish--Indian Creek, Community and Brantley Liberty--met at Indian Creek with the Rev. Charles Bell acting as moderator. The Rev. M. D. Morgan was called as pastor of the three churches . . . "without script or purse" . . . Mr. Morgan said, understanding the condition of each church.

On April 1, 1951 the Indian Creek Church met with the Rev. Morgan as moderator and voted to extend an invitation to the congregation of the Community Church to join with them to become one church . . . "so we may go forward in accomplishing more for the Kingdom of God". Five members were received by letter from the Community Church.

So the struggle went on in the two churches. In July Mr. Morgan made arrangements for Rev. Hugh Lasseter to conduct a revival at the Indian Creek Church, to begin August 5, 1951. The two churches cooperated in a Vacation Bible School, and Rev. Morgan was very pleased at this success. The school began July 24 and continued through the 29th. "It was on the following Sunday morning that we received the sad and shocking news of the sudden death of our beloved pastor" wrote the church clerk.

During the following year the congregations kept struggling to hold the churches together, and this was made more difficult without pastoral leadership. The latter part of 1952 the Rev. H. B. Gebhardt was called to serve the churches, and he proved to be an inspiring and faithful leader.



Brantley Parish Parsonage, rebuilt from old Community Church.

On May 31, 1953 the congregations of Indian Creek and Community churches met in a joint conference with the Rev. Gebhardt as moderator and voted to unite as one church. Officers were elected to serve for the remainder of the year. It was also voted that the Community Church building should be moved to Indian Creek to be used as a parsonage, to be jointly owned by the Indian Creek-Community Church and the Brantley Liberty Church.

Mr. Gebhardt gave his time to the development of the new church and encouraged the people to go forward with their appointed duties. He worked faithfully at the task of moving the Community Church building to the parsonage ground, and everyone cooperated in giving their time and money to the building of the parsonage, members of both congregations working side by side.

Then Mr. Gebhardt became ill and due to his health and age was advised by his doctor to resign. Work continued on the parsonage, however, and plans were made to seek a new pastor. The Rev. Clifford Frasier was called and served a short period, resigning in May of 1954.

On Oct. 15, 1954 the Rev. M. O. Worley was called, and moved into the almost completed parsonage Nov. 29, 1954. He has been serving the churches since, and under his leadership the



First Building Committee (left to right): G. M. Compton, Mrs. H. L. Byrd, Rev. G. B. Gebhardt, and John E. Bell.



Second Building Committee (left to right): Benson Williams, Rev. M. O. Worley, L. B. Wells, John E. Bell and Mrs. H. L. Byrd.

parsonage has been finished with asbestos siding on the exterior and painted inside.

The church officers express appreciation to everyone who participated in building the parsonage, and especially thank the Rev. Worley for painting the interior of the parsonage and building the kitchen cabinets.

What the Indian Creek-Community congregations have accomplished through cooperation and long-range vision is something that might well be pondered by other congregations of churches in a similar condition.

The Indian Creek-Community and Liberty churches are certainly to be congratulated!

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SUMMER CONFERENCES - 1956

Kentucky-Tennessee at Pomona, Tenn. June 3-9. Rev. Harley Patterson, Dean.

Alabama Junior & Senior High, combined this year, at Southern Union College July 8-14. Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Dean.

Georgia-South Carolina at Waycross Aug. 19-25. Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Dean; Wm. Frank Gordon, Asst. Dean and Business Manager.

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A planning session for the Alabama Summer Conference has been scheduled for Feb. 12 at Southern Union College.

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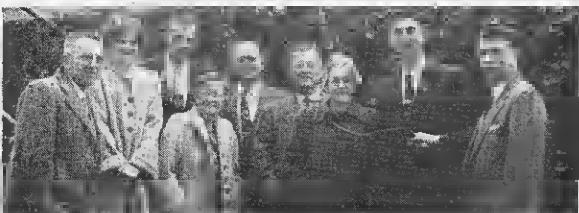
GEORGIA FAMILY CAMP

The Georgia Summer Conference committee met Dec. 30 in Atlanta to make plans for 1956. The Rev. Henry Abbott resigned as Dean at the Georgia Conference Board of Director's meeting held the previous day. The Rev. W. C. Carpenter was then elected to serve as Dean, with Wm. Frank Gordon as Assistant Dean and Business Manager.

Theme chosen for the Summer Conference was "The Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"; the hymn selected was, "O Zion Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling".

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Present at the planning session were (left to right) Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Dean; Miss Martha Storrett, PF chairman of Faith Commission; Rev. Henry Abbott; Mrs. W. F. Gordon, president Georgia Women's Fellowship; Rev. M. B. Porter, Moderator George-South Carolina Conference; Wm. Frank Gordon, Asst. Dean; Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Minister Christian Education and Youth Work; Millard Fuller, SEC president PF; Rev. Henry Weaver, Chairman Christian Education Committee for Georgia; and the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent (the photographer).



INSTALLATION SERVICE

The formal installation service for the Rev. Scott Morris, Jr., new pastor of First Church of Andalusia, Ala., was held at 4 o'clock on Dec. 4. Delivering the installation message was the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent, who spoke on Christian Leadership.

The South Alabama-NW Florida Association of which the local church is a part, comprised the ecclesiastical council which witnessed the vows and installation. The Rev. Raymond Berry, association moderator, read the vows. The service was most impressive with all clergymen wearing robes and vestments. The vested choir led the processional, singing the famous hymn, "God of the Prophets."

Green pine boughs were used in floor urns in front of the chancel rail and on either side of the altar, which was beautifully decorated with white mums and glads in a brass vase and flanked with tall brass candlesticks burning white candles.

Following the service the church entertained at a reception for the new pastor and his wife. Pouring coffee were Mrs. Lula P. Trawick and Mrs. Leroy Peevy. All members of the Women's Auxiliary assisted in entertaining.

Pictured below are the clergymen who took part in the installation of the Rev. Scott Morris, Jr. First row, left to right, the Reverends Walter Kilburn, pastor of West End Methodist Church of Andalusia; P. M. Griffith, pastor of Pyron's Chapel of Baker, Fla.; Raymond Berry, pastor of Andalusia Antioch Congregational Church; Erston M. Butterfield; and Scott Morris; (second row) the Reverends John Jeffers, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Andalusia; John Dent, pastor of Northside Baptist Church of Andalusia; M. O. Worley, pastor of Indian Creek Church of Brantley, Ala.; and James P. Woodson, vicar of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Andalusia. The ministers are shown as they were leaving the church following the Installation Service.



Notice to Church Clerks

Have You Sent in Your Year Book Report?

All reports are supposed to be in the Convention office by January 12. Compiling all the figures for the report to the Year Book Dept. takes a great deal of time, so please send your report IMMEDIATELY if you have not done so already.

God's Gift of a Year

God has provided a perfect new year,

What shall I do with the gift?

Shall I let Spirit my bark of life steer,

Or shall I aimlessly drift?

Vistas of three hundred sixty-five days

Filled with new chances to grow,

Stretching before me, enkindling my gaze,

Richness upon me bestow.

Fifty-two weeks beholding pleasure or pain,

Labor, or satisfied ease;

How may I best the constructive part gain,

Leaving behind me the lees?

Twelve golden months, opportunity-filled,

Four happy seasons in store;

Time enough there if I truly can build,

Heaven on earth to restore.

God, give me strength to make use of the gift,

Help me my vision to clear;

Teach me my hopes and my standards to lift,

Worthy this happy New Year!